

COUNTRY Eastern Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from the Wittenberg Area

25X1

EVALUATION [] 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED [] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT [] 25X1

DATE OBTAINED [] DATE PREPARED 11 September 1952

REFERENCES [] 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. On 2 August, the Flak Kaserne in Wittenberg (N 52/E 37) was occupied by 800 to 1,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets.

2. On 3 August, the Beseler Kaserne was occupied only by a labor detail. Sixty soldiers were laying a ground cable.

3. On 29 July, the Arado area was occupied by 500 to 600 soldiers with 10 tanks.

On 23 and 24 July, 20 soldiers practiced the loading of T-34 tank [] on the premises of the Arado plant. ** The bridge across the Elbe River west of the Brueckenkopf Kaserne which had been built at the beginning of August, was crossed daily by T-34 tanks and SU-100 guns from the Arado plant until 10 August. ***

4. The engineer equipment depot on Marx-Engels Platz was guarded by a sentry with black epaulets on 7 August. Bridge building equipment and five large pontoons were stored there. ***

5. At 2 a.m. on 5 August, 60 to 80 trucks driving from east to west passed through Wittenberg-Piesteritz. At about 6 p.m. on 5 August, 27 sidecar motorcycles, 100 to 120 motor vehicles including 10 sedans, 10 jeeps, 3 ambulances and 1 four-wheel armored scout car drove in the same direction.

[] Soldiers observed wore red-bordered black epaulets. Between 6 a.m. and 11 a.m. on 6 August, a column of 350 to 400 westbound trucks passed through Wittenberg-Piesteritz. A column of about 30 veicles [] carried pontoon sections, with each truck carrying one section. Truck [] mounting a hoisting gear was also identified. Thirteen trucks carried troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets and towed a 76.2-mm AT gun each. Another westbound column which passed through the town between 9 and 10 a.m. on 7 August consisted of about 50 trucks each of which

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carried a pontoon section. ***

25X1 6. On 10 August, a train carrying motor vehicles, whose numbers had
 25X1 been painted over, passed through the Wittenberg railroad station,
 25X1 coming from the direction of Bitterfeld and proceeding toward
 25X1 Berlin. At 10:30 a.m., construction material was loaded into
 25X1 boxcars from motor vehicles [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] armored scout [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] armored personnel carriers [redacted] and about 40
 25X1 motorcycles with sidecars and a total of 350 troops wearing red-
 25X1 bordered black epaulets passed through Wittenberg at 11:30 a.m.,
 25X1 coming from the direction of Dresdener Strasse and proceeding
 toward Pratau. *

25X1 7. Prior to 9 August, the Beseler Kaserne was occupied only by a rear
 25X1 detail of soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets. ** During the
 25X1 night of 9 August, the installation was used as transient quarters
 25X1 for soldiers who wore black-bordered black epaulets, red-bordered
 black epaulets and black-bordered crimson epaulets and were equipped
 with about 140 motor vehicles. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted]

25X1 *

25X1 [redacted] Comment. The information in paragraphs 1, 5 and 6 and one
 25X1 previous report each [redacted] of paragraphs 1 and 6
 25X1 tend to indicate that the command-post exercise at Finsterwalde
 25X1 also included the Wittenberg area. Elements of the GDFG, the Third
 25X1 Shock Army, the Third Gds Recz Army and air force including AAA units
 25X1 of the 62d AAA Div (US) of the Third Gds Recz Army and, apparently,
 25X1 also of the 6th Gds AAA Div of the GDFG, have temporarily been
 25X1 stationed in tent camps and barracks installations since the end of
 25X1 July. The quartering area had been vacated by the 6th Gds Tank Div.
 The units were still quartered there until 10 August or were being
 loaded on that date. [redacted]

25X1 ** [redacted] Comment. The Arado plant is still believed to house the tank
 25X1 training battalion of the 6th Gds Tank Div.

25X1 *** [redacted] Comment. There is no definite information that engineer units
 25X1 participated in the Finsterwalde-Wittenberg exercise. [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted] the column of an engineer unit observed
 25X1 on 6 and 7 August by source of paragraph 5 belongs to the GDFG
 25X1 and proceeded toward Dessau. The Elbe River on both sides of Dessau
 25X1 has served as summer training area for the two engineer regiments
 25X1 of the GDFG since May. As the bridge reported by [redacted]
 25X1 was still intact on 10 August, it appears probable that this bridge
 had been built by other units. However, according to shipments observed
 since mid-July, the engineer units of the Third Gds Recz Army that
 had assembled in the Wittenberg area during the preceding months,
 were probably no longer in this training area.

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